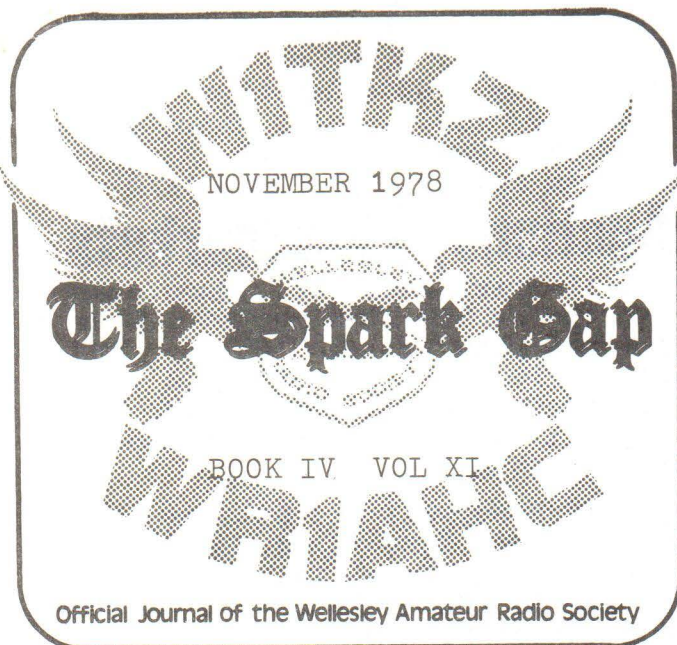




You may notice some difference in this issue of the Spark Gap. And not surprisingly, since the Gap now has a new editor. After several years at the reins of our club newsletter Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, has stepped down to concentrate on his job, and his other club job of treasurer. As the new editor, I will try to follow the lead that Jim has given me which has resulted in an award winning publication which we have enjoyed each month. It's a tough act to follow, but I will do my best to keep up the quality of the Gap.

Some of you may not know me too well as I have not been as active in the club during the two years I have belonged as I would like to have been. I graduated last June from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a BSEE degree. Thus due to the distance involved, and the lack of my own transportation, it was difficult to get to the club activities. Also since the home QTH was Weston, Conn. it was rather hard to get up here during the summer and other vacations from school. I am now a permanent resident of the area, so I will be a bit more active in the club, starting right here with the Spark Gap. As far as my ham radio history goes, I started about four years ago as a novice WN1TUH, and was WA1TUH up until last January when upgrading to Extra class brought along the call I

now hold, K1UR. While at WPI, I was president and vice president of the radio club there, so I've been active in club activities during the last few years.

As far as the Spark Gap goes, it will change very little. Indeed the editor can only do so much as he has to rely on others for material to be printed. This is where you come in; the Spark Gap is your publication, and is only as good as you make it. Your contributions are needed to make the Gap as interesting as possible. Most of you oldtimers (that is, anyone licensed more than a few months ago, considering the growth of ham radio lately!) have had some experience or have built some pet project that, even though it may not seem like much to you, would be of great interest to the newcomer. So, if you can manage to find some time inbetween DXing or whatever, how about sharing some of your experiences with the rest of us.

After the long summer layoff, the club's active season is now well underway, with many activities scheduled throughout the next year. Even though it is still several months away, planning for the annual message fair is beginning, not to mention the QSO party and other activities coming up in the next couple of months. The only way for you to get the most out of the club is to participate, starting with the regular meetings where the planning is started, right through the events themselves. After all, that's what the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society is all about. Hope to see lots of participation from all our many members this year; after all, the more the better.

73,

Nels J. Anderson

Nels Anderson, K1UR

MEETINGS THIS MONTH: _____

November 2, 1978 at 7:30 pm

November 16, 1978 at 7:30 pm

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

How's DX

By Bob Rudko. W1HSS

It seems as if all the predictions about 1978 being a great year for DX are coming true. Not only have band conditions been excellent, but some countries which have not been on the air for years are again being put on. Included in this list are Clipperton, Iraq, Cocos-Keeling, Melish Reef, South Sandwich, and possibly in the near future, Bouvet and China.

There has been some discussion lately by the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) about changing the requirements for DXCC country status. One of the proposals is to eliminate neutral zones and embassies as separate countries. The other proposal is to eliminate the separate administration criteria. This rule has allowed places such as South Sudan and certain other areas to be given DXCC country status. The problem with this rule is if you go by the strict interpretation, every national park in the U.S. should be a new country, because they are administered by the Interior Dept. If you have any comments on these proposals, send them to the DXAC, c/o the ARRL.

Another item the DXAC has been considering is the use of lists for working DX. As many of you know, lists are becoming more and more common on the HF bands. While there is no real problem with lists, and in some cases they are necessary, they tend to be abused and a general mess results. The problem usually results from the fact that the person running the list has done it incorrectly causing people to get frustrated and then just QRM the frequency. A suggestion has been made that an operating aid be generated on procedure for running list operations. This should at least give people running lists guidelines to follow which would keep the stations on frequency from getting frustrated.

In the near future look for the

following operations:

Navassa (KP1) - End of November

Walvis Bay - Late December

Sao Thome (S9) - D4CBS there soon

CQWW CW - November 25/26

Chatham Island - 10/27 to 11/6 □

Auctions / Flea Markets

Nov. 11-Framingham R.C. "Mass. largest Indoor Ham Flea Market". Rear of Framingham Police Station. Set-up 9 to 10. Doors open at 10 a.m. Food available. Advance tables \$5, \$7.50 at the door. Info via Lew, 617-879-7456.

Nov. 18-Honeywell and Waltham Club auction, 300 Concord Rd., off Rte. 3 in Billerica, Mass. Talk in on 04/64 and 72/12. Check-in at 10, auction to start at 11 a.m.

Nov. 24-Middlesex ARC auction. Check in at 7 p.m., auction at 8. Mason-Rice School, Newton Center, Mass.

Swap Nets.....Derry, N.H. Tuesday at 9 p.m. on 25/85, Mt. Ascutney Sunday at 7 p.m. on 16/76, and Hoss Traders Net Sunday 4-6 p.m. Oct. through May on 3.940 MHz.

de Ray Shoop, N1CW, Box 3005, Framingham, Mass. 01701. Send news of these events to me for printing. TNX

hr REPORT

The FCC's fee refund program is supposed to get underway by the first of the year, with FCC licensees who paid more than \$20.00 for their licenses first in line for reimbursement. Details of how all this is to be done have yet to be worked out, as the amount to be repaid is to be the fee less the license's "value" to the applicant (how much is a 2-letter call worth?). A Notice of Inquiry, soliciting comments on how such values can be derived and other aspects of the program, will come out first. About all that seems certain at this time is that Amateurs who paid \$25 for a special call sign are due to receive something back, and they'll be the first to be repaid.

hr Report, October 6, 1978□

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: NEILS J. ANDERSON, K1UR
32 WESTGATE ROAD, APT. 6
CHESTNUT HILL, MASS. 02167

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$5. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



"timeout!"

By Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

If you have ever been in a DX-pile up you know the feeling..."the tremendous din and clamour on frequency is almost certainly drowning me out. I had better scream louder into my microphone and squeeze some more r.f. out of this tired old rig." I try to resist the temptation since the last time I gave in, my throat was so sore I couldn't even yell at my kids.

There is an easier way: use a speech processor. A speech processor is not the same thing as a power microphone or a simple audio amplifier. Putting an amplifier between your microphone and your rig would most likely result in distortion rather than improvement in signal strength. The reason for this is that the voice audio signal contains many high voltage peaks or spikes, which can overdrive your rig even though the average voice voltage is at a

reasonable level.

The speech processor differs in that it amplifies the voice, but clips off the high voltage peaks which add little to the signal intelligibility. The result is a lower fidelity signal with much higher average power (by a factor of between 4 and 10). What makes one processor "better" than another is the relative lack of distortion introduced by the clipping process.

Many modern rigs have built in speech processors. Most have ALC (automatic level control) which prevents transmitter overdrive on voice peaks. There are several commercially available speech processors which can do an excellent job. Many designs for home brew versions have been published.

The best way to evaluate a speech processor is by listening on the air to a signal of weak to medium strength (to eliminate the effect of your receiver automatic volume control). Your S-meter should average at a higher level with the processor in and the audio should still sound clean and natural.

I use a speech processor and have found it to be quite helpful. It keeps my average output power meter on voice where it is on CW. One thing it doesn't do is keep me from screaming into the microphone during pile-ups. Maybe I need a psychiatrist to help me on that problem. □

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

NR 728 dated October 12, 1978

During a meeting held Thursday, October 12, and widely publicized as Personal Radio Day at FCC, the Commission directed its staff to prepare a Notice of Inquiry for a new Personal Radio Service to operate on 900 MHz. This decision was based on recommendations of the Safety and Special Radio Services Bureau that 900 MHz was preferable to other frequencies for this proposed service for the following reasons.

1. Better chance of coordination with Canada and Mexico.
2. Less television interference.
3. No present users who would be displaced.
4. Less expensive for FCC to administer.
5. More spectrum would be available.

'YL' Rumblings

It's a Bird.

It's a Plane.

No, it's just another %&@ antenna!

Every few months my husband and I get away to our weekend retreat some distance away. Driving over the same highways can become a tiring routine. My attempts to draw friend husband into conversation during these trips have always been dismal failures. "Oh look. Isn't it extraordinary! Imagine building a twenty-nine room, purple stucco house out here!" Zzzzzzzzipppp-- "What dear? Which one is it?" I sigh, "no matter, it's now several miles back. We just flew by it."

The beauty of spring eluded him. The pastel greens of the budding trees, the riotous colors of the spring blossoms all became a dizzying Picasso as he made his mad dash from point of departure to destination. Summer fared no better than spring, and the paisley of fall blurred right along with the other seasons. He's the only person who ever made the seventy-nine mile trip in twenty-eight and a half minutes.

However, since he's become a ham radio operator all this has changed. We started out as usual one day, but without the burning rubber. Smooth start....What's up? Hey! How about that! There are people out there!! "Hello. Hello," I shouted. "It's good to see you!" It seemed almost unbelievable. As though he had been reborn, he was peering intently all around him, drinking in the sights of the route.

We'd been driving for about half an hour (had gone some four blocks from the house) when the car slowed even more. He extended his arm, and pointing his finger he breathed, "Oh my God. What a beauty!" I looked around for Sophia. "Up there," he said as he inched by and pointed skyward to a soaring apparition of pipes and wires. There, amidst the metal jungle was a tiny yellow bird. "Ooh look," I exclaimed, thoroughly delighted that he had noticed. "A

double-breasted Parton bird!" (So slow was our passage by that I was able to observe the bird eat seventeen seeds, four bugs, preen her feathers twice, peck at the branch nine times, send two messages downward in the interest of ecology, and flap her wings once before flying away.) "No, no" he said. "The antenna! The antenna!" NOW I knew what our conversation should be!

Trying to enter into the spirit of things, (and imitating his speech so as not to appear totally ignorant of the subject) I offered at the very next set of towers, "Hey boy! Looka that! Must be an omnidirectional antenna with a three-element beam." Satisfied that I jived with that one, I sat back and grinned. His next pause was NOT the one that refreshes. His glare riveted me to the seat, the smile still frozen on my face. "Sweetheart," he began. (In his dictionary that is not a word of endearment.) "That is the channel 5 tower!" "Well," I said lamely, "it sure was a beauty." With that, silence reigned once more, except when he muttered something under his breath that sounded like "pleasant"....or maybe it was "peasant."

But I'm learning. Now I marvel at verticals. I delight at dipoles. I swoon over inverted vees. I even gush at oil derricks.

Give me "A" for effort.

WE/ARY□

hr REPORT

Amateurs upgrading have a problem if they appear for their exam without bringing along a copy of their license. Paragraph 97.47(a) of the Rules requires that the original or a photocopy of the applicant's license accompany every application for modification, so forgetting that copy can cause a serious delay. It's not a good idea, of course, to submit the original.

hr Report, October 13, 1978□

MESSAGE FAIR

By Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY

The big blizzard of 1978 showed that we amateurs were ready to step in to fill the emergency gap for the most part. Since one of the first obligations of amateur radio is public service, we ought to be forever ready.

With this thought in mind, we have a good opportunity to prepare for one part of our emergency skills in the upcoming Christmas message fair. This is, of course, the skill of message handling, or traffic. Since many of you aren't regular net participants I thought it would be informative to go over creating a piece of traffic to give you some guidelines before the big week is upon us. Let us first make up a message and then take it bit by bit:

34R WA1TBY 22 Brighton MA 0135Z Dec 3
John Jones WB6XYZ (AA)
3456 Pomona Ave (AA)
Los Angeles, Ca 90313 (AA)
(tel) 365 7985 BT

This is a test message X How are you
QUERY Will call you again when I get
my antenna up X 73 BT

(signature) Jim Hatherley
WA1TBY

The first line is called the preamble. The number 34 is the consecutive number of my originated radio-grams since the first of the year. R designates the importance or priority of the message, in this case it is ROUTINE. Next comes the station of origin followed by the check or number of words in the text. We can use the letters ARL in front of this number to indicate that somewhere in the text is an ARRL numbered message, which many of our message fair traffic will have. Next is the town of origination. Because your QTH is Brighton doesn't necessarily mean that this is what goes here. (Supposing someone called you on the phone from Lexington to ask you to send out a message, then the town of origination would be Lexington.) The next thing, 0135Z is the time of origination and this is optional with you, but it tells what

time this message was composed. Next is the date and it only need be the month and day, not the year.

Now we are into the HEADING or ADDRESS. When using CW you would indicate a new line with the AA after the last word of each line on through to where the address ends and the text of the message starts. Here we use, on phone "BREAK" and on CW BT. Your text should agree in number with those you mentioned in the preamble, that is, 22. An "X" is considered a word toward that total CHECK. A salutation is considered a word also, for instance, "best regards", "sincerely", etc., then another BREAK to show the end of the text followed by the signature and if necessary AA if there is more than one line to the signature. Normally you will only find a name here or even multiple names, like JIM JOE NANCY AND PETE. These are all on the same line and therefore no AA is needed.

If you are on a voice circuit, then you would read your message similarly such as, "Copy number 34 ROUTINE from WA1TBY check 22 time figures 0135 ZULU DECEMBER 3, going to JOHN JONES, amateur call sign WB6XYZ, 3456 POMONA AVENUE, LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA, telephone figures 365 7985 break THIS IS A TEST MESSAGE XRAY HOW ARE YOU QUERY WILL CALL YOU AGAIN WHEN I GET MY ANTENNA UP XRAY 73 break signature is JIM HATHERLEY WA1TBY. End of message, go ahead". The message should be read slowly; remember, the fellow on the other end has to copy it so he can repeat it later!

Normally, you have a copy of a message form at the back of an ARRL logbook. For the message fair, there is a special form made up. For numbering of messages at the mall, ask the person in charge for that evening. I hope you have found this informative. □

- - - - -
Those of you who risked your lives drinking coffee at meetings last year, will be happy to know we now have a new pot, thanks to C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, after approval at the Oct. 6th meeting of the club. □



By Pete Spotts, N1ABS

I was perusing my log not long ago, paying particular attention for no apparent reason to the contacts I made while using two types of antennas--a vertical and a dipole. As I compared the results of both skyhooks in terms of states worked and signal reports received, I noticed that while the dipole was dynamite for contacts as far west as the Mississippi River, it wasn't worth the Bic pen barrels I was using for insulators when it came to contacts further west.

With the vertical, on the other hand, I was doing well in getting out beyond the Big Muddy, but I couldn't raise Pennsylvania to save my life.

I pondered the problem for some time, and then I realized that the not so difficult answer was right in front of me all the time. The difference in performance was due primarily to the radiation angle of each antenna. A vertical, working against a good ground, has a very low angle of radiation, while a dipole has a somewhat higher angle of radiation.

All this led me to formulate the Peanut Whistler's Law of Antennae: a QRPer's antenna system (note the word system) should consist of both a dipole and a vertical. At this point, I think I hear great belly laughs from the ranks of beam and quad owners, and I must confess they have a point. It is difficult if not impossible to duplicate the performance of a beam or quad using the PWLA QRPer's system. But not everyone has the money to lay out on a beam or quad and tower. And one of the primary reasons for this column is to show that one can get good performance out of modest equipment at a modest to ridiculously low price. So, with cotton in my ears to dampen the chuckles, I'll press on.

First, let us proceed to the dipole. Reams have been written on how to design a dipole, so I'll leave the technical background to the ARRL Antenna Book--with the ex-

ception of the key formula:

$L(\text{feet}) = 468 / (\text{frequency in MHz})$
for the length of a half wave dipole.

Because I seldom use 80 meters, I cut my half-wave dipole for the middle of the CW portion of the 40 meter band. Using the above formula, that worked out to 66'2" for: $468 / (7.075 \text{ MHz})$.

For those who want to get fancy, they can add dipoles for the remaining bands using the same center feed points for all antennas. Me? I took the lazy way out and used the 40M dipole on all bands with the help of a good transmatch.

As for insulators, I used the clear plastic barrels from Bic ball-point pens--indispensable if you're going to build the proverbial invisible dipole! Just drill carefully a hole about one inch in from each end using a drill bit to give a hole just large enough for the wire to pass through. In this case, I used no. 22 bell wire. Using these insulators, I suspect you could use up to no. 18 solid insulated wire without worrying about breaking the insulators--that is, unless you also want your antenna to double as a roost for buzzards or turkeys. And there's no need to worry about roasting the insulators because you're not going to run a kilowatt through your antenna, are you?

For the lightweight antenna like this, you might consider using 300Ω twin lead as a transmission line instead of heavier coaxial cable. Using twin lead generally will require a 4:1 balun (balanced to unbalanced transformer), which will drop the impedance of the transmission line from 300Ω to about 75Ω, a figure well within the range of most transmatches. Just make sure to mount the balun near the transmatch, if the marchbox doesn't have one already built in.

If you want to avoid the balun routine, then feed the antenna with coaxial cable--but not without some support at the center of the dipole. Remember, this is a lightweight skyhook. All soldered connections that may be exposed to weather should be given a coat or two of clear acrylic.

PETE'S PEANUT WHISTLE, continued....

Now for the more, how do I put this, unique component, of the system the vertical. Someone once said that a vertical antenna can be depended to work equally bad in all directions. I don't know...maybe he tried to erect his vertical in his basement or something. My vertical--and an extremely unorthodox one at that--hasn't prevented my paltry HW-8 from thundering into California with a 589 report. So, just to show you what you can get away with, here is the Spotts Slapdash Special.

Four five-foot sections of Radio Shack's finest aluminum TV masting forms the basis of the antenna. If you want to get fancy, you could even use five sections or more. After removing the finish from the "male" ends of the masts, the sections are joined, using a sheet metal screw or two at each joint to improve electrical contact and help a bit in terms of mechanical stability. Mounting and guying is up to the individual. I mounted mine against a chimney on our apartment roof. A machine screw at the base of the antenna serves as the tiepoint for the "hot" lead of the coax used to feed the antenna. I use no loading coil, but depend again on my faithful transmatch.

Initially, I used no radials, and the antenna was for all practical purposes an end-fed "random wire". My first contact with the new vertical was Wyoming on one watt. But I will be the first to admit that adding a radial system sure improved things. The radials are about 5% longer than the vertical. While ideally radials should be set out for the full 360 degrees around the base of the antenna, I could only lay out five radials for 180 degrees because of the position of the chimney on the roof. Needless to say, my radiation pattern isn't too swift toward the "unradialed" side of the vertical, but then nobody asked me about my antenna requirements when they designed the apartment building.

Thus ends the saga. The combined cost of both antennas runs less than half of the outlay for my HW-8, and

they have allowed me to make many ennoyable QSOs. So if you're discouraged by the high price of antennas these days, and you're not out to set every DX record in the book, then try these two types of antennas using one to complement the other. They're inexpensive enough so that you can set them up and garner more of your share of both local and distant QSOs. □

Dues Dues Dues...

Yes, it's that time of year again. Dues are still only \$5.00 which is a good value considering all the activities the club sponsors during the year. In the past, the club has carried those who did not pay right at the beginning of the year on the roles for quite a long time. This year, however, the time will be much less than in the past, so to keep your membership current, please send your check in to our treasurer, Jim Hatherley at 46 Hobson St., Brighton Mass. 02135. The proposed new constitution which will be voted on in the future will set the time that a member will be carried as sixty days after the acceptance of the annual budget, so be forewarned. □

Executive Minutes

At the last meeting of the executive committee, held on October 7th from 7:30 to 12:00 p.m. the following business took place:

President Don Chesley appointed Bill Hanlon, N1ADY, as education chairman, and Dave Curry, K1TK, as the emergency coordinator.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the proposed new constitution with discussion lead by Dick Magnanti the head of the constitution committee. A few changes were made in the constitution which will be brought up before the club in the near future.

Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings, with dates and times to be announced at the regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month. □

MESSAGE FAIR

This years message fair plans are now finalized and once again we will be at the Natick Mall for one week, this year from December 4th through December 10th. Last year we handled over 1000 messages during the week, and this year will no doubt be at least as successful.

This is of course one of our biggest activities of the year, and consequently a large number of people are needed to make it successful. People are needed each week night as well as during the day on the weekend to take messages from people at the Mall and to relay them along. People are also needed at home who can relay messages into the National Traffic System.

All people interested in participating in the Natick Mall Message Fair must sign up at the November 2 meeting, or if you cannot make it on that evening by calling Don Chesley at 655-5211. We must know right away who is coming and who can operate from home so a schedule can be made up to be passed out at the November 16th meeting.

This is a very enjoyable activity and one of your best chances to fulfill the obligation each Amateur has to provide public service. Hope to see you there. □

education corner

Bill Hanlon,
N1ADY

The fall session of the W.A.R.S. amateur license classes is off and running.

The novice class started Oct. 2 and will continue for approximately 13 weeks. This group meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. downstairs in the Intermediate building. Instructors are Nels Anderson, K1UR, and Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ.

The Technician/General class was started Oct. 17, and will run approximately 17 weeks. They meet every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. also at the Intermediate building. Instructors are Dave Goldman, W1YSW, Bob Rudko, W1HSS, and Mike Adlerstein, K1FB. □

Please remember, the Spark Gap deadline is the 15th of the month.

CHUCKLE KORN-LR

Tester O'Riggs roared his disapproval 40 db. over the voices of the rest of us.

"I protest and deplore this projected action of the Echo Hollow Mud-and Signal-Slinging Society. Under no circumstances should we put our club on record as being in favor of the abolishment of all QRM, QRN and QSB!"

We recoiled aghast at this apparent in-league-with-the devil attitude this revolting development within our ranks. Indeed, if a vote had been called at that moment there is no question but that the outcome would have been 11½ in favor of the motion and only one against. Tester was alone-an outcast.

Tester took the floor for the defendants-interference, static and fading while we 11½ plaintiffs sat back querulously with folded arms.

"I speak from my own experiences as a QRP DX man," he began. "QRM, QRN and QSB are very often my best operating aids. Take that VR8 I worked last week. He started CQing and I barely got his call before he disappeared momentarily beneath two S9 birds calling CQ ZD8. I heard him sign beneath the racket and quickly grabbed him only because I was the only joker calling. Do you guys think my 6V6 would have had a chance if his long CQ had been in the clear?"

"As for atmospherics, QRN is just what's needed to separate the men from the boys in 80M summer DXing. Thanks to noisy nights for sitting-duck shots last year I knocked off ZK2, FU8 and a half-dozen others I wouldn't have gotten close to if the band had been quiet and more pleasant for the softies to use.

"And QSB--jimminy! When the Europeans fade out on Twenty to let those rare Oceanians and Africans leak through should you complain? Go ahead chumps; cut your own DX throats if you like but I request to be recorded as voting opposed!"

This Bryant-like blast was followed by a few minutes of thoughtful silence, after which the motion was discreetly tabled and forgotten. □

by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD
QST, June 1953

F.D.

By Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY

It all happened on the weekend of June 24-25th down at our old familiar site on Long Island in Boston Harbor. On this weekend our club, as well as hams from all over the United States and Canada, went into the field to test their ability to conduct communications on their own power. The sunrises and sunsets were nothing short of spectacular. Of course, admittedly, many didn't get to see the sunrise but when they see the pictures we took of it, the probably would have wished they could have been there to see it first hand. (Again, to prove the best things in life are free!)

We set up communications in Fort Strong and had for antennas, a TA-33 on 10, 15 and 20 meters, a dipole on 80 meters, a long wire with a transmatch as an alternate antenna and a 2 meter beam for that band. We also set up a 6 meter beam but whereas we didn't have an adequate transceiver for this band, it was for the most part dormant.

For what was supposed to be a simulated emergency condition, we were very well prepared when it came to eating. Gosh, we ate better that weekend than we would normally do, fried chicken, corn on the cob, watermelon, all sorts of home made cake made for us by the yl's, french toast with sausage or bacon, cold cuts, cheeses, cold drinks, orange juice...

As the weather was ideal, so were band conditions and we worked around the world. For the most part we were working other hams in the U.S. and Canada, but then we also picked up points from a VK3 and a ZS5 station (Australia and South Africa). Your author also had a fast QSO with his brother in Georgia on Sunday morning.

The generator, under the supervision of Roger Wilmarth, WA1RSV, worked flawlessly providing the power for the rigs, the lighting of the entire area, the TV we had set up for the off duty guys and gals.

Unknowingly, we set up our station in the vicinity of a swallow's nest which had two chicks in it. The mother bird was frantic trying to get to the nest so she could feed her youngsters but was too timid to enter because of our presence. We cleared the area once in order to allow her to go there but her timidity remained and she waited patiently until the intruders left for good.

As far as points for the contest were concerned, we got our share but we didn't put as much emphasis on this as we did having a good time. I don't know how many points we did amass, but it wouldn't be enough to get the top dog position in the standings. The fact that we did establish emergency conditions was the important point.

People in attendance that I know of: Pete and Kathy Spotts; Maurice, Jan, Mario, and baby Puente; Bill Hanlon; Don Chesley; Joe McGrath; Diane Colella; Jim Hatherley; Chris Wiles; Roger Wilmarth; John McGlinchey; John McReynolds; Farrell Woods; Luella and Cheryl Chesley; Deb Chesley and Dale Chesley; George Young; Bill Downing; C.J. McDonald; Dick Magnanti; Glenn and Nina Brodie; Eric Thorensen; Matt Vartanian; and Howard Brown. □

hr REPORT

The negative effects of amateur antenna structures on neighborhood property values is the real issue in many anti-tower zoning laws and anti-antenna suits, the Personal Communications Foundation reports. It's the issue in the N6QQ case, where the city of Cerritos has agreed that N6QQ's tower was structurally sound and its safety was not an issue.

Professional help on the property value issue is being sought by the PCF for the N6QQ case, which the Foundation believes could have a negative effect on Amateur's antenna rights nationally if it goes against N6QQ. Real estate appraisers, realtors, or others who could provide expert opinions on the antenna vs property value issue should contact Ken WidELITZ, WA6PPZ.

hr Report, October 13, 1978 □

HR REPORTS, continued...

Excellent Amateur Radio PR is being aired in Minnesota during half-times of the Minnesota Vikings games. The Amateur publicity is part of a 60-second United Way/NFL public service announcement in which Viking player Jim Marshall introduces Minnesota citizens and then the Handi-Ham Service, with shots of handicapped Amateurs operating their stations. Thanks KØHR. □

The FCC's funds almost ran out and some Commission activities were curtailed as the Commission's fiscal '79 appropriation was delayed until this Wednesday (Oct. 11), when President Carter finally signed the appropriations bill. The principal effect on Amateurs is a delay in some licenses that were in process when funding to contract services had to be temporarily cut back. It's possible also that some travel may have to be cut when the approved budget comes back for review. □

License Revocations for bribing an FCC employee to issue unmerited 1 x 2 callsigns were handed out to two Ohio Amateurs on October 4. Revoked were the Amateur licenses of WA8ZDF/W8MZ and WB8AKU/WB8CPL, as an aftermath of the FBI's licensing investigation that resulted in the conviction of FCC Gettysburg employee Richard Ziegler in June, 1977. The revocations become effective in 50 days unless there is an appeal or the Commissioners choose to review the case. □

FCC's Amateur exam study guides outline what's needed to pass each class of Amateur license test. They are excellent references for those preparing to become Amateurs or to upgrade. The guides are available on request from any FCC Field Office. □

ARRL's 1979 Handbook was scheduled to be out October 19. Like QST it's the new, large size but still boasts over 500 pages. It will sell for \$9.75. □

ARRL Convention

October 14 and 15 were the dates for the annual ARRL New England Convention, held this year at the Sheraton Hotel, Boxborough, Mass. Although the facilities were a bit too small for the large crowd of hams (over 3000 in all), a good time was had by all, including a large group from the WARS. Among the more notable forums that I saw were the one on computerizing the ham shack, presented by Dr. Robert Suding, WØLMD. If you should hear a synthesized computer voice on hf some afternoon, it will probably be him showing off his equipment. Also the show on the recent Clipperton DXpedition by Hugh Vandegrift, WA4WME, with slides and movies running concurrently, was very interesting.

One of the highlights for WARS was the presentation at the ARRL forum of an award to Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY, for editing the best newsletter for a large club during the past year. For his efforts, a nice engraved plaque was awarded.

Of course there was also a large group of manufacturers and dealers displaying their goods, giving all a chance to try out some of the new equipment (if they could elbow their way through the crowd!).

All in all, a FB weekend. □

Hearabouts....

Well, folks, that's about it for another issue of the Spark Gap. I hope you have enjoyed my efforts, and will contribute to the Gap when you have something of interest. While I'm at it I should mention that Chris Wiles, WA1RGA, will be helping me out as graphics editor. A few of the new things we have put together are visible already in the current edition. See you next time. □

MEMBER



Amateur Radio News Service



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